



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2011-0747]

Standard on Blasting Operations and the Use of Explosives; Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork)

Requirements

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: OSHA solicits public comments concerning the proposal to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements specified in the Standard on Blasting Operations and the Use of Explosives.

DATES: Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES:

Electronically: You may submit comments, including attachments, electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

Docket: To read or download comments or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection through the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350 (TTY (877) 889-5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and the OSHA docket number for this *Federal Register* notice (OSHA-2011-0747). OSHA will place comments and requests to speak, including personal information, in the public docket, which may be available online. Therefore, OSHA cautions interested parties about submitting personal information such as Social Security numbers and birthdates. For further information on submitting comments, see the “Public Participation” heading in the section of this notice titled **“SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.”**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seleda Perryman or Theda Kenney, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone (202) 693-2222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Department of Labor, as part of the continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information collection requirements in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA’s estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires that OSHA obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent

feasible unnecessary duplication of effort in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

The Standard on Blasting and the Use of Explosives (29 CFR part 1926, subpart U) specifies a number of paperwork requirements. The following is a brief description of the collection of information requirements contained in the Subpart.

General Provisions (§ 1926.900)

§ 1926.900(d) -- Paragraph (d) states that employers must ensure that explosives not in use are kept in a locked magazine, unavailable to persons not authorized to handle explosives. The employers must maintain an inventory and use record of all explosives -- in use and not in use. In addition, the employer must notify the appropriate authorities in the event of any loss, theft, or unauthorized entry into a magazine.

§ 1926.900(k)(3)(i) -- Paragraph (k)(3)(i) requires employers to display adequate signs warning against the use of mobile radio transmitters on all roads within 1,000 feet of blasting operations to prevent the accidental discharge of electric blasting caps caused by current induced by radar, radio transmitters, lighting, adjacent power lines, dust storms, or other sources of extraneous electricity. The employer must certify and maintain a record of alternative provisions made to adequately prevent any premature firing of electric blasting caps.

§ 1926.900(o) -- Employers must notify the operators and/or owners of overhead power lines, communication lines, utility lines, or other services and structures when blasting operations will take place in proximity to those lines, services, or structures.

§ 1926.903(d) -- The employer must notify the hoist operator prior to transporting explosives or blasting agents in a shaft conveyance.

§ 1926.903(e) -- Employers must perform weekly inspections on the electrical system of trucks used for underground transportation of explosives. The weekly inspection is to detect any failure in the system which would constitute an electrical

hazard. The most recent certification of inspection must be maintained and must include the date of inspection, a serial number or other identifier of the truck inspected, and the signature of the person who performed the inspection.

§ 1926.905(*t*) -- The employer blaster must maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of explosives, blasting agents, and blasting supplies used in a blast. The employer must also maintain an accurate running inventory of all explosives and blasting agents stored on the operation.

§ 1926.909(*a*) -- Employers must post a code of blasting agents on one or more conspicuous places at the operation. All employees also shall familiarize themselves with the code and conform to it at all times. Danger signs warning of blasting agents shall also be placed at suitable locations.

II. Special Issues for Comment

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply. For example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.

III. Proposed Actions

OSHA is requesting that OMB approve the information collection requirements contained in the OSHA Standard on Blasting and the Use of Explosives (29 CFR part 1926, subpart U).

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved collection.

Title: Blasting and the Use of Explosives (29 CFR part 1926, subpart U).

OMB

Control Number: 1218–0217.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profits.

*Number of
Respondents:* 193.

*Frequency of
Responses:* On occasion.

*Average Time
Per Response:* Various.

*Estimated Total
Burden Hours:* 1,602.

*Estimated Cost
(Operation and
Maintenance):* \$0.

IV. Public Participation – Submission of Comments on This Notice and Internet Access to Comments and Submissions

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows:

(1) Electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax) at (202) 693–1648; or (3) by hard copy.

All comments, attachments, and other materials must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (Docket No. OSHA–2011-0747). You may supplement electronic submissions by uploading document files electronically. **Please note:** While OSHA’s Docket Office is continuing to accept and process submissions by regular mail, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Docket Office

is closed to the public and not able to receive submissions to the docket by hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled “**ADDRESSES**”). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments by your name, date, and the docket number so the agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments.

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and date of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office.

Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website’s “User Tips” link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available through the website, and for assistance in using the internet to locate docket submissions.

V. Authority and Signature

James S. Frederick, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 et seq.) and Secretary of Labor’s Order No. 1–2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on November 2, 2021.

James S. Frederick,

Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

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